

IN THE DRAWINGS

Amendment to the Drawings:

Please replace all seven drawing sheets with the attached six sheets of drawings. No substantive changes to the drawings are made by this Amendment.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of February 12, 2007 (hereinafter “the Office Action”). By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 17 are canceled without prejudice and claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 18 amended. Therefore claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, and 18-20 are pending.

All references to the claims, except as noted, will be made with reference to the claim list above beginning on page 4. Line numbers of the Office Action cited herein, except as noted, will count every printed line, except the page header, but including section headings. If there is any confusion or questions regarding any aspect of this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Amendment

Paragraph 5 of the Application as filed is split into two paragraphs and amended for readability, as well as to provide a more explicit antecedent to digital image, computer manipulation thereof, and computer program as cited in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment does not constitute new matter as the added verbiage merely recite inherent functions, theories, or advantages, as provided in MPEP 2163.07(a).

Paragraph 29 of the Application as filed is amended to replace the word, “continuous” with “contiguous.” This corrects an obvious error, hence, does not introduce new matter.

Claim 1 is amended to import significant portions of claim 10 into the body of claim 1. In addition, significant amendments were made to claim 1 to improve clarity, e.g., to better define certain terms. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice. Claim 4 is amended to correct the dependency to claim 1 and to remove unnecessary verbiage. Claim 5 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 6 is amended to clarify, simplify, and correct the dependency. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 8 is amended for clarification and to correct the dependency. Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 10 is amended to remove subject matter that was added to claim 1 and additional clarifying language was added.

Claim 11 is amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 13, and some clarifying language was added. Claims 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice.

Claim 16 is amended in the preamble to explicitly specify statutory subject matter. In addition, claim 16 is amended to generally include limitations of claim 1 as amended. Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 18 is amended by adding various clarifying amendments.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Status of Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 6, 10, and 13. Applicants have endeavored to incorporate subject matter from claim 10 into claims 1 and 16, and from claim 13 into claim 11.

Drawing Objections

The Drawings are under objection “because some of the handwritten labels are hard to read” (Office Action, page 2, line 3). Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants respectfully note that new replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith with all reference numbers replaced with machine-drawn numbers. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being unpatentable for failing to set forth patentable subject matter (Office Action, page 2, lines 18-19). Applicants respectfully traverse. This Amendment amends the preamble of claim 16 in accordance with the recommendations present in the Office Action (page 3, lines 4-5). Reconsideration of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,895,112 issued to Chen et al. (hereinafter, “Chen”). Claims 2-15 and 17-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chen in view of one or more of the following references:

- (1) U.S. Patent 6,868,178 issued to Frei et al. (“Frei”);
- (2) U.S. Patent 5,432,863 issued to Benati et al. (“Benati”); and
- (3) U.S. Patent 6,798,903 issued to Takaoka et al. (“Takaoka”).

Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 10, which was indicated by the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter (Office Action, page 11, line 15 to page 12, line 14). Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 13, which has been held to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 17 are canceled without prejudice. The remaining claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, and 18-20 depend from either claims 1, 11, or 16, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as the respective depended-upon claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6933. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ROXIP288). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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